

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (currently amended) A method for performing beating-heart closed-chest surgery on a patient to connect a graft vessel to target vessels, comprising:

- creating at least one point of entry into the thoracic cavity;
- performing a sutureless proximal anastomosis between the graft vessel and one target vessel while the heart is beating, utilizing a tool inserted through at least one opening point of entry;
- gaining access to a distal anastomotic site; and
- performing a sutureless distal anastomosis between the graft vessel and another target vessel with at least one tool while the heart is beating, wherein each said tool enters the thoracic cavity ~~only~~ through at least one point of entry.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a sutureless distal anastomosis comprises:

- attaching the graft vessel to the target vessel; and
- creating an opening in the target vessel.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said attaching comprises stapling the graft vessel to the ~~tensioned portion of the~~ target vessel.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a sutureless distal anastomosis comprises inserting an anvil through the wall of the target vessel into the lumen of the target vessel.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising moving said anvil against the wall of the target vessel.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a sutureless proximal anastomosis comprises:

placing an end of a tool substantially normal to the target vessel, said tool holding the

graft vessel; and

deploying an anastomosis device to attach the graft vessel to the target vessel.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising splitting said tool to release the graft vessel.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating comprises utilizing a sub-xyphoid approach.

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring the distance between the proximal anastomosis site and the distal anastomotic site with a vein measuring device inserted through at least one point of entry into the thoracic cavity.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said creating is performed with a tool~~ further comprising deploying a trocar port in at least one point of entry into the thoracic cavity.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said gaining access comprises creating an opening in the pericardium, wherein the opening extends substantially from the aorta to the apex of the heart.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said gaining access comprises accessing the intrapericardial space.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said performing sutureless distal anastomosis further comprises attaching a clamp assembly to the distal end of the graft vessel.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising slicing the distal end of the graft vessel.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising connecting the clamp assembly to a distal anastomotic tool.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising viewing the anastomosis sites during the procedure.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing at least one additional sutureless proximal anastomosis and at least one additional sutureless distal anastomosis.

Claims 19-44. (Withdrawn).